

▼ J A N U A R Y • 1 9 9 5

The
NOT
working
at the
car

Spare Change

Helping People Help Themselves

Karen Plante and
Leon Jiroux look
forward to working,
but what kind of
jobs will they be
able to find?



wash
(or
anywhere
else)
blues!

INSIDE • *This Issue*



6
TOUGH
WORKING
LIFE

"I'd rather be working.

It's not your fault if you've

been laid off . . . again."

► YOUR VENDOR PAYS UP TO 50¢ PER COPY OF SPARE CHANGE • SOLD BY DONATION

C O L O U R P H O T O • S N A K E

▼ P L E A S E B U Y F R O M B A D G E D V E N D O R S O N L Y



from THE STREET PRESS

Hard times for people facing cuts in Nicaragua

BY ADRIENNE THURSTON

A visit to the poorer parts of Nicaragua's capital city, Managua, shows how hard life can be in a poverty-stricken country. Nicaragua is just one of the countries threatened by poverty caused in large part by the "structural adjustment" policies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

A typical Nicaraguan family lives in the impoverished District 5 barrio of Managua. In February it is very hot and dry, so the people constantly throw buckets of water out onto the dirt street in front of their homes to keep the dust down. During the rainy season they say that it gets so muddy that vehicles are unable to pass through these neighbourhoods.

There are eight people, three of them children, in Xavier's family. Xavier is a young man, but he's not one of the two of the adults who work outside of this home. His mother, the Senora, is a waitress. Her daughter's husband sells electrical supplies in Roberto Huembes market. Between them they probably earn less than \$2 a day.

The house is overrun with mice and the occasional rat, which come from the pharmacy next door because of all the boxes, they say. "Well, we had a cat," they explain, "but it ran away.

Another young man who lives here is the Senora's ex-husband's son. Both of the young men have partly completed a university degree. Since monthly university fees have been introduced they can no longer afford to attend.

The economic changes - structural adjustment - were first brought in 1988 by the Nicaraguan govern-

Community projects nourish new hope

ment at the Monetary Fund's insistence. The changes intensified in 1990, and government spending was further cut when the Fund made cuts a condition for the rescheduling of Nicaragua's loans. Education and health care were particularly hard hit, and it affected the most vulnerable, the poor, women and children, the worst.

Public health in District Five, for example, has deteriorated and become less accessible. Many people are choosing not to attend health clinics because they know they cannot afford the medicines that will be prescribed. Charges for services are a real burden on

ness and with unemployment rates running at 70 per cent and higher, the people have no choice but to buy cheap.

It seems desperate but there are some inspiring initiatives. Xavier, for example, had begun a medical degree when education was free in the 1980s. Now, he is using his knowledge to train others in preventative health. Out of his home he teaches a two year program for people to work as volunteers with what is called the "Community Movement." He is also working on a literacy program for adults. He is a part of a number of community-based organizations like the Foundation for Integral Community Development (FUNDECI). The organizations support a wide variety of community activities in housing, health, legal aid and working with youth and women. FUNDECI also operates a technical assistance program which recruits foreign volunteers for projects.

Other hopeful development projects involve international organizations, like Edmonton's Tools for Peace, in setting up revolving credit funds for small businesses and farming groups to get credit to develop their production.

Initiatives like these strengthen the communities and the power of the people in those communities to

exercise and protect their rights, which is what the substance of democracy really is.

Adrienne Thurston works with Tools for Peace in Edmonton and recently returned from Nicaragua. The former Sandinista Foreign Affairs minister of Nicaragua and current director of FUNDECI, Father Miguel d'Escoto, will be visiting Canada and speaking at the Edmonton Global Visions Festival January 27 to February 4. For more information contact the Centre for International Alternatives at 439-8744 or Tools for Peace at 488-8387. ♦



Xavier teaching health classes in his barrio home.



Two children, street sellers, pose with the boxes of candies and trinkets they sell.

people with few jobs, and very poor-paying jobs.

These days many Nicaraguans buy foreign goods that represent social status. It is not uncommon to see a woman going to sell tortillas on the street or in the market wearing a tattered sequin or lace party dress. The markets in Managua are filled with second-hand clothing and shoes. Many local producers, bakers, spinners, shoe-makers, carpenters and handicraft workers can't make a go of it anymore. The cheaper U.S. clothing and goods have run them out of busi-

Help People Help Themselves • At Home & Abroad

Drink rich and delicious mountain-grown coffee.

Order from a wide range of flavourful coffees produced by unions and co-ops.

Your purchase of Oxfam Canada's Bridgehead Coffee also benefits the Spare Change newspaper.

All Bridgehead Coffee is vacuum-packed to preserve that 'roaster fresh' flavour.

To place your order for the New Year:

Call The Centre for International Alternatives in Edmonton at 439-8744.

Or The Arusha Centre in Calgary at 270-3200.



\$4.95/300 g

Feed the **FOOD BANK**

Edmonton's Food Bank feeds up to 10,000 Edmontonians in need every month. Up to one-third of these people in need are children under 12 years of age. Please help the Food Bank ensure that they don't go hungry.

FOOD BANK SHOPPING LIST

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beans with Pork | <input type="checkbox"/> Canned Fish/Meat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Macaroni & Cheese | <input type="checkbox"/> Dinners or Pasta |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baby Food | <input type="checkbox"/> Peanut Butter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Powdered Milk | <input type="checkbox"/> Soup |

Monetary donations also gratefully received. Food donation may be left at all Fire Halls or major food stores. For more information on how you can assist the hungry in your community, contact one of the following local Food Banks.



Edmonton Food Bank
(403) 425-4190
Saskatoon Food Bank
(306) 664-6565
Regina & District Food Bank
(306) 791-6533
Calgary Interfaith
(403) 253-2059

2

SPARE
CHANGE
JANUARY
1995

P
H
O
T
O
S
A
D
R
I
E
N
N
E
T
H
U
R
S
T
O
N

VENDOR • Profile

Dennis Fryklund

BY CANDY WATSON

Is that an off-duty cop or a security guard taking a break outside The Bay in downtown Calgary? Neither. He is in dark blue, serious looking, and over 6 ft. 4 in., so "security guard" might be your first impression of Dennis Fryklund.

Dennis stands straight, looks ahead and holds up his papers. He rarely says anything. Occasionally he moves about to keep warm. Is he nervous about selling *Spare Change*? Not like he used to be. But he's not a talker. His size and silence make some people glance sideways and hurry by.

Dennis was the fifth Calgary vendor to sign on to sell *Spare Change* last April. He says, "The first day I started, I didn't do very good. I was shy about people going by me. I felt, 'What kind of racket am I getting into?' As I got more involved it turned out to be not bad at all." People now hold out cash and thank him for a paper on his corner at 7th Avenue and 1st Street SW. His sales have increased steadily ever since he began. Other vendors look out for him and help him manage his money.

"Kensington is a good area," he says. He and his friend Rob Champion work there Friday nights and Saturdays. "It feels like you're in a little town. It's quieter there. People like to talk to you." His deep-set eyes brighten. "I've sometimes made as much as \$40 in four hours," he says.

He knows how a little town feels. Now in his mid-forties, he grew up in Moose Jaw, the son of a Swedish father and an English/Irish mother. One brother and his father (now a widower) still live in Moose Jaw, a sister and her family live in Vulcan, and he has a

brother in Gleichen. Dennis has worked in a mill, been a painter, learned drywalling and done hotel cleaning. But Moose Jaw, a retirement town, couldn't hold a guy in his thirties.

"One day," he says, "I just hopped in the car to go for a ride." When he 'phoned home, he said, "Guess what, Mum, I'm in Calgary!" And he stayed. He got married. Jenny, his daughter, is now eight years old. "She's growing too fast!" he says, and his face relaxes. These days she gets to see him regularly. Jenny's treat is to go with her dad to the A&W.

Dennis's poor health always meant he had a hard time holding a job. "I was very nervous and hyper. I'm still on a couple of medications for that," he says. He qualified for A.I.S.H. (Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped) and in the fall Rob helped him move to

a small apartment off Kensington Road. "It's a mansion compared with what I had before," he says. "I sleep a lot better now. I've calmed down a lot." He can walk to work in 30 minutes. It will be a while before he makes the final payment on a '78 Olds Cutlass.

He'd like to deliver *Spare Change* when it expands into other neighbourhoods.

"I enjoy working for *Spare Change*," he says. "You're self-employed. There's no boss. You don't have to worry about getting fired. The people at C.U.P.S. (Calgary Urban Project Society) are good to work with. I think the thicker *Spare Change* gets, the better. It has to get some advertising and get more stories, then more people will want to buy it." ♦

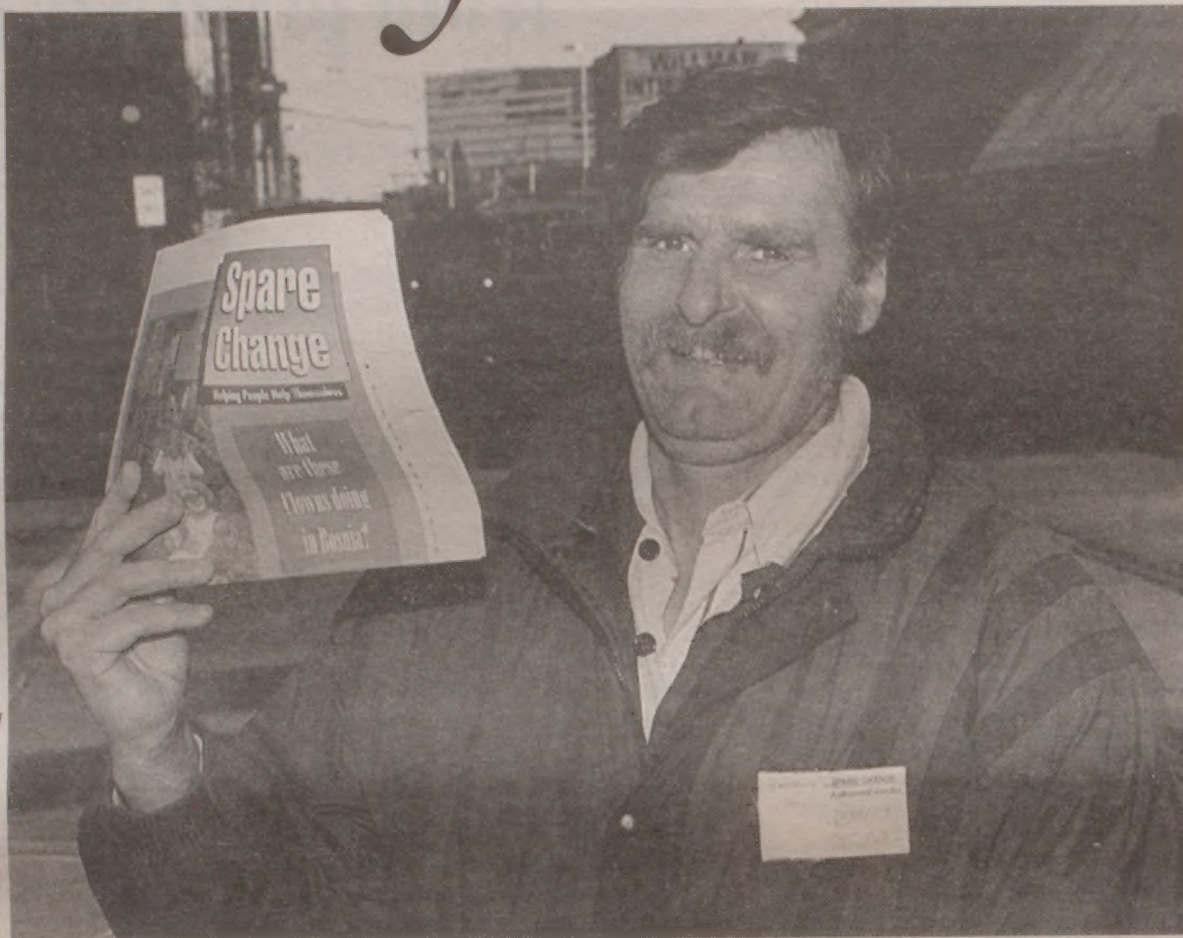


PHOTO © CANDY WATSON

New Start Canada handling *Spare Change* in Saskatchewan

New Start Canada seeks to deal wherever possible with crisis situations faced by people, particularly children. Designed by a small Pentecostal Church in Saskatoon, the program has homes for runaway children in Saskatoon and Regina, and a street outreach program in Vancouver. It's starting a program in Calgary.

Rev. Phil Biggs, of the New Start national office, says that each year thousands of children across Canada run away from problems they cannot face. They end up on inner city streets where they become a target. Through New Start, volunteers offer their homes to the children, but New Start is also working with businesses to provide job training and other programs.

In February, New Start plans to open safe houses in Calgary. They will be a safe place for runaways or for whole families, anyone who needs help. Besides emergency assistance, staff will also offer further help with job training and the help a family needs to get on its feet.

Helping distribute the *Spare Change* newspaper in Saskatchewan is one of several people-helping programs run by New Start. ♦

GET IN TOUCH ELECTRONICALLY

You can reach **Spare Change** with your computer via the Internet. **Spare Change** has an Edmonton FreeNet account and we'd like to hear from you on our e-mail. Your letters, suggestions or even submissions or articles are warmly welcomed. You can reach **Spare Change** at: sparech@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca Send us a note. ♦

3

SPARE
CHANGE
JANUARY
1995



**Spare
Change
Authorized
Vendor**

Vendor Name _____
Number _____
Authorized by _____

SPARE CHANGE VENDOR'S CODE

- I will be sober at all times while working
- I will be polite to all members of the public
- I will vend only in areas that are authorized

All *Spare Change* vendors are required to wear an ID badge (contents above) and abide by a code of conduct. If you have any comments about our vendors, phone our distribution manager in your city (see page 5).

Why should we care?

It's a legitimate question. With across-the-board cuts to social services, why should we care about the poor? Don't we have enough to worry about?

Yes, we do! That's why we must think about the less fortunate.

The reality is: basic human needs do not go quietly unmet when help is not offered. Desperate people seek relief by all means — rules of conduct aside. Their problems show up inescapably as ours.

Witness the raft-loads of refugees that stormed the United States. No solution was found in "Send the bums home," "It's not in the budget" or "We won't blink." America, the prototype non-welfare state, found it necessary to put time, money and effort into solving other people's problems.

The same is true in Canada. Our country is listed by the United Nations as among those which use imprisonment, instead of treatment, to cope with the mentally ill. In a World Health Organization study last year, an Alberta prison sample showed approximately 70% of the inmates to have diagnosable, manageable mental illnesses.

How does the cost of crime; of capture, trial and imprisonment; of early release and medically predictable re-offense for the thousands in our overflowing penal institutions compare to the \$400 per month saved by cutting hundreds more from social support services?

Laughably!

Our government has said we cannot afford the present social safety net. This issue begs the question, "Can we afford not to have it?" And if we cannot afford its loss, what can we do to stop it?

The first step is to undo inappropriate changes.

Young man turns away from prostitution

Thanks for the punkin'

The old guy looked at me with a sideways smile and asked me if I had ever "done it." I hadn't but said I had because I was already seventeen and felt like I should have. It seemed like everybody I knew had already "popped their cherry" and I felt left out of something with my virginity. Then he asked me if I had ever smoked pot. That I had done, and I told him so. He took me to his house-telling me that he would get me real high and show me what it felt like to be a real man. I lost my virginity that afternoon, but it wasn't how I thought it would be. At first it hurt — a lot, but afterward he performed oral sex on me and that felt nice, but I was still confused. I don't think I would have gone through with it, but he smoked me up and I was really stoned. Anyways, we got together a few more times before he started sending me on dates with his friends, who would always get me high or drunk and then give me money.

"Thanks for the punkin', pumpkin." That's what one guy would always say.

I learned later that was the expression for anal sex in jail. Punkin'.

I was always careful to make excuses to my friends as to why I couldn't go out with them at night. They would have called me a faggot or a "ho." So I led a secret life that I felt ashamed of. And that's why I'm writing to you. I know you have published quite a few stories about kids on the streets, but I want to let people know that the streets are not the only place for prostitution, and that it's not only females that get trapped in its black hole. I come from a respectable family and have just recently found a girl that I like very much.

I have been reading your magazine for a few months now and have found hope in its stories of lives turned around by the power of positive thought and self-image. I have been straight for three weeks now and I have enrolled in classes for the fall. I want to get my high school diploma and become an electrician. *Spare Change* helped to bring me there. ♦

DARCY

The next step is to implement real solutions. If cuts to social services are reversed, what are the alternatives? Some are obvious. Hunt down fraud, in administration and in use. Hire corporate top guns to get services working productively. Use recovered money to plug cracks in the system.

There will always be a segment of society that has less-than-adequate personal resources for self-care, no matter how many out-of-province bus tickets the local government dishes out. "Send the bums home" will work no better for Alberta and its disadvantaged than it did for the U.S. and Haiti.

That's why we should care. Because, ultimately both the problem and the solution are ours. ♦

A. RIEL

Read paper over coffee

I've recently moved to Calgary from Mississauga, Ontario. My husband and I were in the Kensington area on Saturday and there on the corner of the street was your vendor, Andria Wolf Leg, holding her supply of magazines to sell.

A timid voice was heard, "Spare Change a magazine for the homeless." I passed her, realized what I had done and went back to support the group. I read the paper over coffee the following morning. It's a great little paper, very informative. It's nice to get closer to the people.

I was raised to help our fellow man and to treat everyone as an equal. In the past I have been a volunteer for several areas within the community. Nothing is more worthwhile than to help others. I will continue to support your group and to express my feeling about your paper to others. Continued success, and thank you for helping someone. ♦

JACENTA FRIESEN • CALGARY

SECOND CHANCE

10265 107 Street
Edmonton

Shoes
\$4

Sweaters
\$4

Infantwear
\$1-\$2

Parkas
\$10

DAILY
SPECIALS

Jeans
\$5

9:30am-5pm Sat

NO G.S.T.

10am-5:30pm Mon-Fri

We also have a large selection of antiques, furniture, toys, jewellery, books and household items

The things people will do for money

When they're desperate, people will do most any kind of work to make a little bit of money. There are plenty of dishwashers working for minimum wage and worse. Delivering papers in the dark at 5:30 am. Shoveling sidewalks. Look at the notices pinned up on the mall billboard: Hauling garbage, house cleaning, you name it.

Good, secure jobs with dignity and reasonable pay are always in short supply. When people can't find

them, they make do, they tough it out, and very often they suffer.

If there's anything worse than the working-at-the-carwash blues, it's the NOT-working-at-the-carwash – or anywhere else – blues.

Over the last couple of months the official rates of unemployment have dropped below 10 per cent, but on the street things aren't really much better. Most estimates are that the official unemployment rate, at best, only includes about half the people who are jobless. It could well be that the number of people looking for work is dropping; there's only so much discouraging news anyone can handle. The fact is, millions of Canadians still have no job or pitiful jobs that barely keep them alive. The official rate tells very little of the story of working and not working in our country.

Our economy booms, then it goes into recession and then, supposedly, it recovers. But this time the recovery seems rather tough. If this is the economic recovery, it is a mean and jobless one. Unemployment statistics just don't tell the whole story. There are lots of stories out there about what people have to do for

their money these days. There are still plenty of people who are serious enough about finding any work at all that they will stand on cold street corners to sell you this newspaper.

This month, the coldest, toughest of the year, we look at the hardships some of our neighbours face, working, and not working. ♦

KEITH WILEY



Spare Change

Helping People Help Themselves

Picking on the little guys

Premier Klein recently received an award for his valiant efforts fighting the provincial debt. He had a great strategy. Choose an adversary who is weak, without advocacy, and already unpopular. Add a smear campaign, and wind up a hero.

The welfare recipient is the perfect scapegoat. An emphasis on welfare scams ensures support from the taxpayers, whose money is being stolen, as some will go to great lengths to point out.

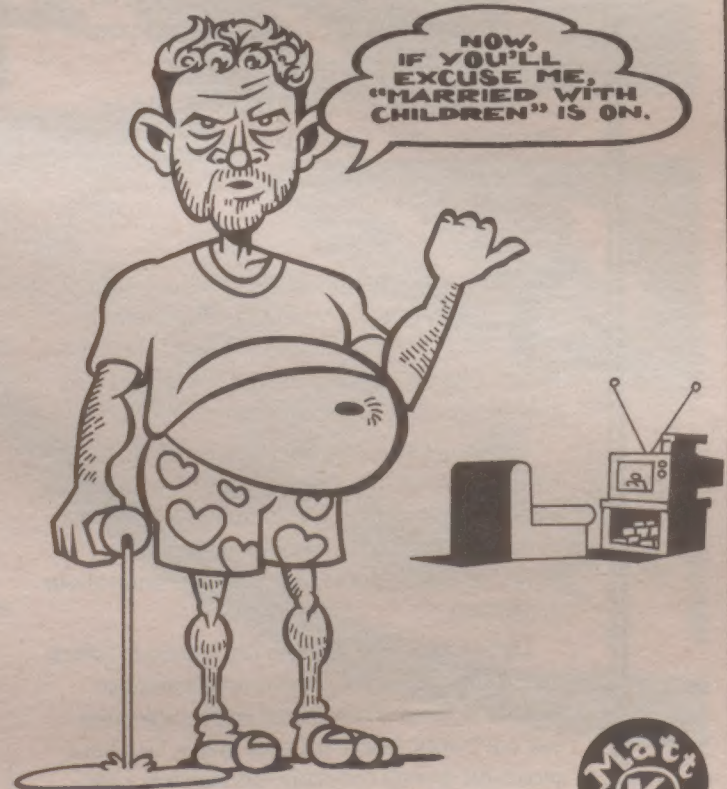
If the statistics on the national debt are in any way related to those for the province, hacking away at social programs is saving Klein's much-vaunted thousands while billions slide by unheeded.

According to Statistics Canada, 50 per cent of the national debt is due to tax breaks given to upper income earners and corporations, 44 per cent is due to high interest rates, 4 per cent is due to general program spending, and only 2 per cent is attributed to social programs.

Going after the welfare recipient is like getting the mouse out of the granary while leaving the cow inside. Ralph Klein, hero or strategist? ♦

LINDA DUMONT

A REQUIEM FOR THE EMPLOYED...



Spare Change

Helping People Help Themselves

Publisher: Martin Garber-Conrad
General Manager: Gord Poschwatta
Editor: Keith Wiley
Proofreader: Megan Collins
Design & Layout: Jang & Willson

EDMONTON:
The Bissell Centre
10527-96 Street • Edmonton • AB • T5H 2H6
Phone: 423-2285 • Ext. 47 • Fax: 429-7908

Spare Change is published to provide a voice and employment for people who have no spare change. **Spare Change** gratefully acknowledges the inspiration and support of Michael McCarthy and Vancouver **Spare Change**. However this publication is not officially associated with any other publication. Opinions

CALGARY:
Calgary Urban Project Society (CUPS)
128 - 7th Avenue SE • Calgary • AB • T2G 0H5
Phone: 221-8790 • Fax: 221-8791

expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of **Spare Change**, the editors or publishers. **Spare Change** welcomes your contribution. Letters sent to the editor are assumed to be for publication, unless otherwise indicated. **Spare Change** welcomes

SASKATOON:
127 Avenue D North
Saskatoon • SK • S7L 1M5
Phone: 664-8848 • Fax: 664-8842

written submissions, particularly those submitted on IBM or Mac compatible computer disk, cartoons, photographs or artwork. **Spare Change** cannot accept responsibility for any submission. No part of this newspaper may be reproduced in any form without written permission from **Spare Change**. ♦

JANUARY 1995 • VOLUME 1 • NUMBER 10

The search goes on

BY CHRIS NORGAARD

GET A JOB!

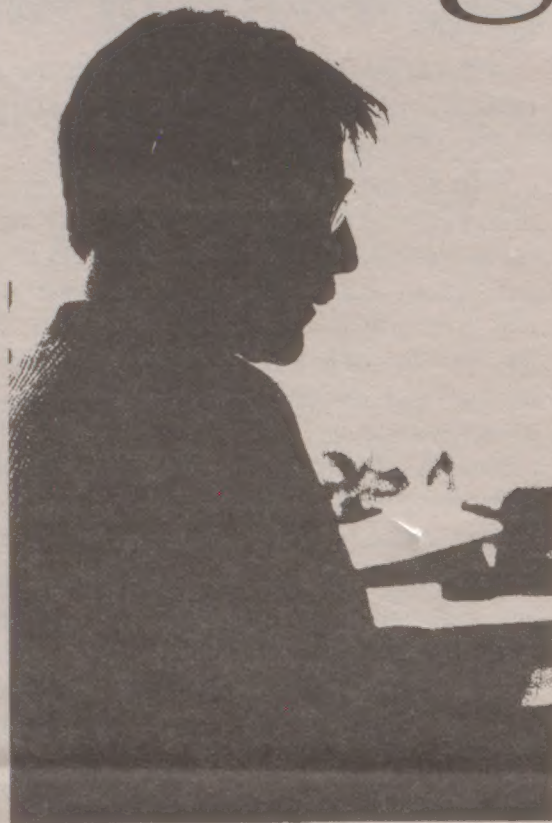
Hey, we're trying. We're not unemployed because we decided that welfare was better than work. Get a job! It's not that easy.

RITA

Rita is a chartered accountant in her fifties. Grey-haired and matronly, she looks like somebody's grandmother, and she is. She is looking for work, but it's hard to compete with all of the bright young graduates in her field. Unemployed and on assistance now, she doesn't have the clothing anymore to impress a prospective employer. She drives an old car and has a telephone, both luxuries not included in a social services budget. This means that her entire check is taken up with housing, car insurance, and the phone.

For food Rita has to scrounge around, eating at the women's program, getting emergency food from missions and soup lines, frequenting the food bank, and wherever else food is available. Life is stressful and poor nutrition often leaves her tired.

"If I gave up my car, I really would be unemployable," Rita says.



LAURA

Laura has been unemployed for three years and on assistance for two. She quit her last job when stress mounted at home.

"My whole family started falling apart," she said. "My husband got into using cocaine, my daughter got involved in Satanism, and an elderly uncle needed help maintaining his home. I was coming home from work never knowing what I would find. One day the TV set was gone, another day it was the stereo. I rescued my leather jacket from the pawn shop three times, and all of my good jewellery simply vanished. My

younger daughter was afraid to stay alone in the house with her sister. 'She's turned into a vampire,' she claimed. With everything going crazy around me, I quit."

She is home now. The family has stabilized, but the fear is there that if she is trapped at a nine to five job things will fall apart again. She still wants to work, but on her own time, or from her own home.

GERALD & MARY

Gerald and Mary, married and in their late forties, both took on newspaper delivery routes. It was the only work they could get. Gerald is back in college for the second time, studying for a second career as a social worker. He hopes that this will lead to job security in the future. Mary takes courses continuously with Job Finder Forty-Five, an employment office to help older people find work. She has studied everything from resume writing to self-esteem.

LES

Les spends his days looking for a job, any kind of a job. He was working for a time, so he has an apartment, but unless something comes up soon, he will be back at the single men's hostel. His last job was as a janitor at a peep show, the only work he could find.

Wasn't it rather gross? Les shrugged, "I wore plastic gloves."

Unfortunately that job ended when he fractured his arm. ♦

There are children going to school without warm winter clothing, wearing running shoes even in sub-zero weather. There are people who are shut-ins when the weather turns cold because they have no warm winter clothing.

Living below the poverty line is very stressful, whether you are working full time for a minimum wage, or looking for a job, or unable to work due to mental, physical or emotional disabilities. There are telling stories in the lives of some of our neighbours.

Dan and his wife are both on "medical," which means they are on long-term social assistance. Neither of them is considered employable; they just can't work. Before his neck injury, Dan ran a successful drywall company. His wife was a jewellery designer before she became unable to work. They have three children.

"Our daughter needs winter boots," says Dan. "She is still going to school in shoes." It was -20° C.

I remember having the same problem. I sent my daughter to school without winter boots or mittens, but with a note for the teacher requesting that she be allowed to stay inside at noon. The teacher, instead of keeping her inside, gave my daughter the clothing she needed. Unfortunately, not many schools have on hand a supply of clothing for the students.

Dan and his family were managing fairly well

The poverty trap

within their social services budget until all of the cutbacks came. Since then it has been a month-to-month struggle which gets more difficult all the time. Dan had to stop driving the car. The children had to switch schools when bus passes for students were cut. The family started using the food bank for the first time.

According to Dan the worst part is that people expect them to accept anything because they are poor. "We've been given spoiled food and had to throw it in the garbage," he says.

Being poor is a shame. It means being looked upon as a failure and, in some churches where prosperity is taught, it means being looked upon as a sinner as well.

Being poor is costly. You may end up having to pay late charges on bills when you can't pay them on time. You can't afford to buy in bulk or catch the sales, or take advantage of special offers.

Being poor can be very isolating. You may have to give up driving a car, or having a telephone. Even the bus may be too costly, and stamps and envelopes are out.

You may be thought of as dirty as well. There are times when the clothes and the dishes go unwashed because there is no soap. You may have to wait for days to wash your hair or to shave while waiting to get shampoo or razors. When toilet paper and toothpaste run out, you do without.

Being poor means eating whatever you can get, not what you like or what you know is nutritious. You eat too much macaroni and cheese, pork and beans, bread and pastry. You have to scrounge for food, and make the rounds of different agencies. It is often assumed that you need courses on nutrition or on how to cook on a budget. The truth is that cookbooks may be useless because you seldom have enough ingredients, and there may be days when you don't cook at all because there is nothing to cook.

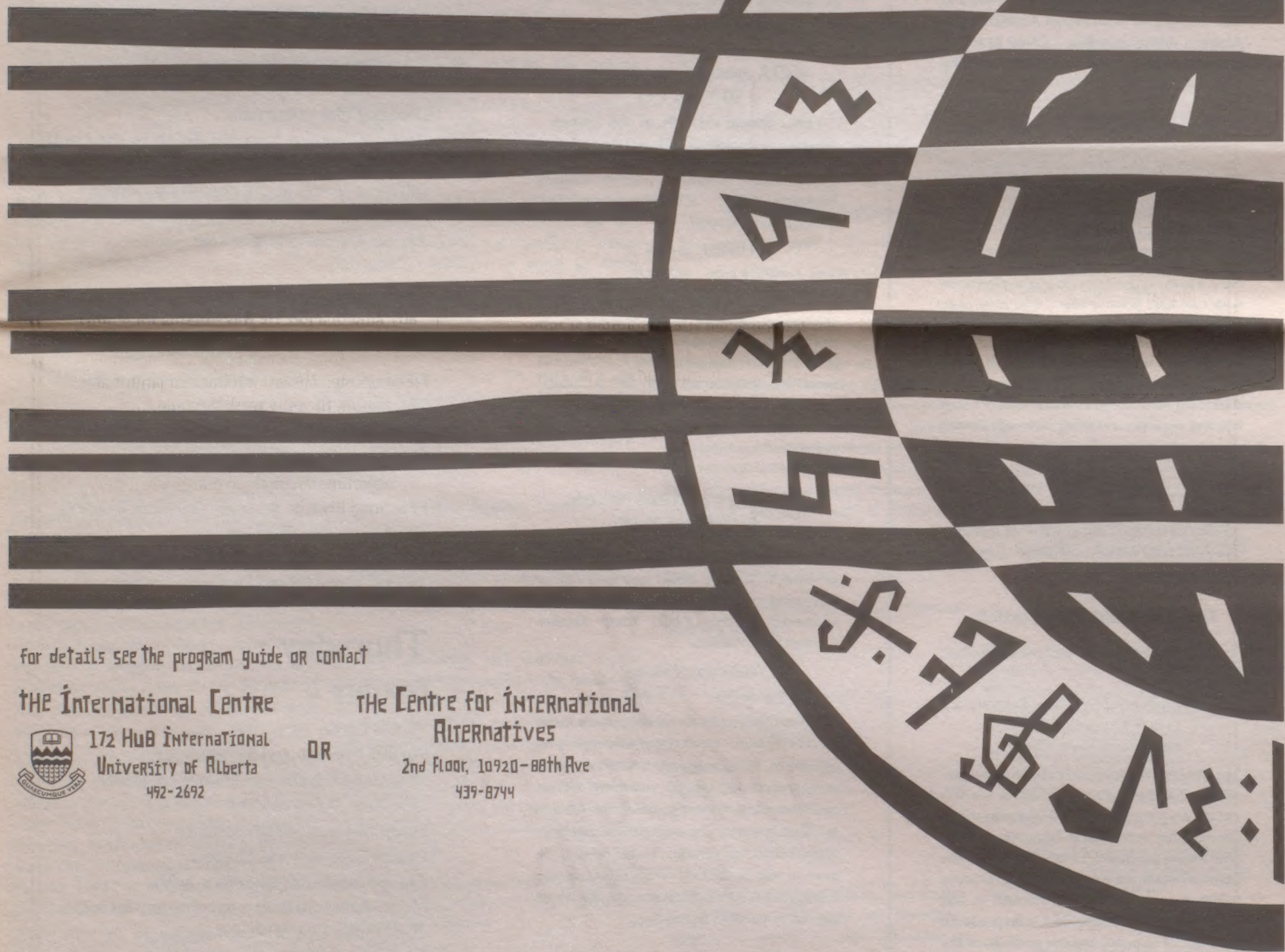
Being poor means living on the edge without a safety net. Even small things can represent major losses. Stress leaves you exhausted, and poor nutrition leaves you tired. Survival takes up all of your strength. ♦

Instruments for Change:

Creating Global Harmony

Jan. 27 - Feb. 4

1995 #2



for details see the program guide or contact

THE International Centre



172 Hub International
University of Alberta
492-2692

OR

THE Centre for International
Alternatives

2nd Floor, 10920-88th Ave
439-8744

International Week 1995

interNational week

International Week will provide the medium for the University community and the greater Edmonton community to come together in open, lively and critical discussion of social justice issues and to explore and celebrate the international and cultural spectrum of our communities. This year promises to be a week of sharing, change, cooperation and fun!

SPECIAL EVENTS

Instruments for Change: Playing for Global Harmony

Monday, January 30 - Friday, February 3
12 noon
HUB

All week long HUB International Marketplace will be filled with beautiful instruments and music from around the world. You'll see and hear instruments from North America, Latin America, Africa and Asia. Come hear the global harmony - it will be fun, free and filled with musical spirit!

'Master Harold'... and the Boys

Presented by Vedascope productions, play by Athol Fugard, directed by Shomee Chakrabartty

Monday, January 30 -
Wednesday, February 1
8 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Hally, a junior at university, spends an afternoon with two East Indian waiters, who have been his longtime friends. It is an afternoon of learning, of reminiscing, of dance. Set in a world where segregation is commonplace and equality a myth, they must come to grips with their own inner conflicts which simmers to a boil and explodes, revealing how ugly human nature can become. The underlying theme is that before we can build institutions that can create global harmony, the instrument for change must start with the individual. Unless we can find harmony within ourselves, harmony on a global scale will seem impossible. Suggested donation is \$5.

Commonwealth Print Portfolio

Sponsored by the Department of Museums and Collection Services

Tuesday, January 24 - Friday, February 3
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
International Centre Lobby

The Commonwealth Print Portfolio exhibition, was produced as part of Festival 78, the arts and culture program of the XI Commonwealth Games which were held in Edmonton in 1978. Nine leading printmakers from throughout the Commonwealth were commissioned to produce a limited edition print for inclusion in this commemorative portfolio. Each artist produced an edition of 65 prints, and one portfolio of the nine prints was given to the national gallery or museum of each Commonwealth nation participating in the games.

Rainbow of Cultures A Performing Arts Celebration

Friday, February 3
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Humanities Lecture Theatre 1

This family event will include an eclectic variety of poetry, dance, song and drama that will come together in beautiful global harmony - created by international students and student groups. Admission is free, but arrive early to get a seat!

What is an International University?

Monday, January 30
12 noon - 1:30 p.m.
Humanities Lecture Theatre 3

Alberta International has invited a panel of senior University and Alberta government officials to help us understand what is meant by globalization of international education in an international university.

CIDA Special Guest Speaker 50 Years On:

What Should the Role of the United Nations Economic and Social System Be?

Alex Volkoff (Director, United Nations Programs, CIDA - Canadian International Development Agency)

Monday, January 30
3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The United Nations celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. In the newspapers we read about the peacekeeping functions of the U.N., but what is its value in the economic and social field, both internationally and to Canada? What needs to be done to make the U.N. a more effective organization for the next 50 years?

Reforming the United Nations: According to Youth

Tom Keating (University of Alberta Department of Political Science, Chair) and John Rymer (University of Alberta Faculty of Education), sponsored by the UN/50 Youth Satellite Committee - Alberta

Wednesday, February 1
12 noon - 2:30 p.m.

This is an opportunity for youth to share views on U.N. reform - views which will not only be listened to, but discussed and noted in a final youth report for UN/50 which will include recommendations from youth across Alberta and Saskatchewan. The speakers will, together, present dialectical versions of what needs to be done to reform the U.N.: from reform of the existing institutions to reapproaching the whole idea of an United Nations body.

Envisioning a Global Quality of Life

Dr. Toh Swee-Hin and Dr. Virginia Floresca Cawagas, sponsored by the Centre for International Education and Development (CIED) and the Department of Educational Policy Studies (EDFDN 525 Graduate Students)

Thursday, February 2
7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

This workshop will challenge participants to explore ideas, values and strategies that foster and sustain a global quality of life.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday

January 30

What is an International University?
The Struggle of the Lubicon Cree
Food, Power and the Global Economy
What is the Beijing Conference?
Biomedicine and Traditional Knowledge
50 Years On: The Role of the U.N.
Poland: Five Years Later
'Master Harold' and the Boys

Tuesday

January 31

MOSAIC (International Student Group Fair)
Good Morning Vietnam
Appreciating Student Resources in an International University
Challenging the Myths: Debt and Deficit
Debating Multiculturalism
Applying Learning from the South to the North
From Social Analysis to Social Change
Different Voices in the Population Debate
Interactive Forum on Indigenous Issues
'Master Harold' and the Boys

Wednesday

February 1

Networking for International Employment
The Future of the United Nations
Who Defines Literacy?
Effects of Structural Adjustment on Egyptian Women
Practising Faith in a North American Context
The Green Jobs Strategy
Privatization: Poverty and Democracy
'Master Harold' and the Boys

Thursday

February 2

World Game
Popular Theatre and Social Justice
Structural Adjustment in Southern Africa
One Year 'Afta' NAFTA
Have You had Enough to Eat?
Health Care in Rural Thailand
The Environment: Ignorance is Bliss
Mock United Nations - Information Session
The Double Life of Veronique
Envisioning a Global Quality of Life

Friday

February 3

Return of the Scorchers
Market Forces or People's Needs?
Deadly Harvest
Mexico: Cooperation, Trade and Competition
International Quiz
Role of Students in International Development
Rainbow of Cultures

International Week Sponsors



Canadian International
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de
développement international

CJSR
FM
88



University of Alberta Students' Union
Union des étudiants

Global Visions Festival

Warrior Marks

Saturday, January 28
1 p.m.

Warrior Marks is a poetic and political film about female genital mutilation which affects one hundred million of the world's women. This film unlocks some of the cultural and political complexities surrounding the issue, with interviews with women from Senegal, the Gambia, Burkino Faso, the United States and England. The film is intercut with author Alice Walker's own personal reflections on the subject.

Following the screening, there will be a panel discussion with members of the Eritrean Women's Association and the University of Alberta's Department of Anthropology. Audience participation is welcome.

The Tibetan Book of the Dead

Rinchen Dharlo (official representative of his Holiness the Dalai Lama in North America, board member UNEP planning committee).
Sponsored by the Canada Tibet Committee

Saturday, January 28
3 p.m.

This two part series, narrated by Leonard Cohen, explores the ancient teachings on death and dying, including a path breaking documentary containing footage of the rites and liturgies surrounding and following the death of a Ladaki elder.

Following the screening, Richard Dharlo will join us via telephone link up from New York.

Little Heroes:

The Child Soldiers of Mozambique

Stephen Hilliar

Saturday, January 28
7 p.m.

During the 12 year civil war in Mozambique, thousands of children were kidnapped and trained to become ruthless killers. Filmed in mid-1994, while waiting for a U.N. sponsored election, Little Heroes is the story of author Lina Magaia and her search for a little boy whose task it had been to kill her. The journey takes us through the wrecked country where everyone is struggling to survive and few people have time or thought for the children who were the instruments of war and who now have no place in a country that's adrift.

Following the film, Stephen Hilliar will take up where the movie ends: what are the lasting effects of the war and what do the election results mean for the people in an International Monetary Fund driven economy? Stephen spent time in Mozambique in the 1970's and recently visited in October 1994 to monitor the elections.

October

Paul Rose (Labour activist, ran with the NDPQ in the last federal election)

Sponsored by Socialist Challenge

Saturday, January 28
9 p.m.

Pierre Falardeau's dramatization of the October Crisis of 1970 takes viewers on an emotionally and ideologically charged journey into a political situation that no one could win. Following the film, Paul Rose, one of the FLQ involved in the assassination of Pierre Laporte, will discuss the issue of popular nationalism and socialism in Quebec and around the world.

Festival Sponsors



Islam and Democracy

Nasrin Rahimieh (University of Alberta
Comparative Literature and Film Studies)

Monday, January 30
7 p.m.

This film captures the intensity of Islamic fundamentalism. While not all fundamentalists call for violence, less militant groups are intransigent in their aim of eliminating minorities, establishing theocracies in the Middle East and overthrowing Israel. Although the film focusses on Egypt, it also explores the issue from a global perspective.

Death of a Nation: The Timor Conspiracy

Sponsored by the East Timor Alert Network

Monday, January 30
9 p.m.

This film about the genocidal aftermath of Indonesia's invasion of East Timor was shot covertly in East Timor, under the noses of the invaders. This powerful and controversial film not only depicts the brutal takeover of East Timor and the subsequent subjugation of its people, but shows how western governments have turned a blind eye to the atrocities for their own economic imperatives.

A Whaleback Summer

Sponsored by Friends of the Whaleback

Tuesday, January 31
7 p.m.

Fueled by rising natural gas exports to the United States, the Government of Alberta has auctioned off dozens of new oil and gas leases in the wilds of the Canadian Rockies. In the spring of 1994, an American multi-national proposed to destroy the last of a Canadian ecosystem, but Amoco Petroleum was destined to meet with unexpected stiff resistance. As Amoco Petroleum stood ready to harpoon the magnificent Whaleback with 20 critical sour gas wells, local residents and concerned Albertans rallied to save the largest montane ecosystem left in Canada.

Friends of the Whaleback will lead a discussion following the film.

The Washing of Tears

Heather Harris

Sponsored by the Dreamspeakers Festival,
Studio One: National Film Board and the
Aboriginal Students Council

Tuesday, January 31
9 p.m.

In 1903 a sacred Whaler's shrine was shipped from Yuquot, a 4,000 year old Mowachaht village on the northwest coast of Canada, to the Museum of Natural History in New York. Removing the shrine removed the heart of the people and in the following ninety years, the community drifted from their traditional lands eventually winding up on Vancouver Island in the shadow of a pulp mill. They suffered extremes of pollution, violence and alcohol until, in 1992, the community overcame their grief through the revitalization of their heritage. Following the screening, Heather Harris, a Gitksan woman who has visited the community, will talk about her experiences with traditional knowledge, practices, and their power in community revitalization.

Stir It Up

Sunday, January 29
1 p.m.

Stir It Up shows how people are getting together to overcome and support each other in their struggles through the idea of Collective Kitchens that started in the poor areas of Lima, Peru. Collective Kitchens is a simple idea of people getting together to buy food in bulk and cook meals together to help reduce costs. The end result is more than just good food - there's a strong sense of community support and the sense that people are supporting themselves.

Following the film, participants of the Harvest for Justice conference will describe ways in which people are building community and working on overcoming poverty and food insecurity in Alberta.

Counter Currents Taking Stock

Sunday, January 29
3 p.m.

Counter Currents explores the conflict between aboriginal and non-aboriginal salmon fishermen along British Columbia's Fraser River. The film raises the difficult questions that must be faced by all Canadians as aboriginal people take back power over their lives and economies.

Taking Stock explores the issue of fish resource management on the Grand Banks. The film holds the message for the Canadian as well as the global community: in trying to attain economic success through big business development, there must be recognition that there are limits to how far we can exploit nature's delicate ecosystems.

Peter Theodore, who has worked in the fisheries on the Fraser river and is going to Belize in February to coordinate support of the local agricultural and fisheries co-op movement, will lead a discussion following the films.

A Fight Against Time

Chief Bernard Ominayak

Sponsored by Friends of the Lubicon Cree

Sunday, January 29
7 p.m.

Through discussions with members of the community, this film explores the human toll exacted by government duplicity and deceit, unbridled oil and gas exploration, clear cut logging and the strain of having no say in your future. As health and social problems continue to ravage the community, time becomes a crucial factor. Unless the Lubicon achieve a settlement soon, there will literally be nothing left to fight for.

Chief Bernard Ominayak will discuss the current crisis facing his people and answer questions following the screening.

Gito: L'ingrat (Gito: The Ungrateful)

Sunday, January 29
9 p.m.

This is one of the most popular African films in recent years: Gito: L'ingrat is funny, well paced and full of beauty and detail. Gito, a student from Burundi studying in Paris, decides to return home, taking with him his brand new diploma and a heap of illusions. He leaves his Parisian girlfriend promising he will send for her as soon as he becomes a state Minister - which shouldn't take long. But once back home, things turn out quite differently.

We are all Neighbours

Rick McCutchan

Sponsored by Project Ploughshares
Wednesday, February 1
7 p.m.

Upon their arrival in February of 1993 to a mixed Muslim/Catholic village in Bosnia, 15 kilometres from the front line, the film crew found a surprisingly optimistic community, fairly relaxed about the sound of distant shell fire coming from Sarajevo and confident that their village would retain its humour and deep friendships. Three weeks later, as rumour, disquiet and suspicion spread, this confidence had evaporated. This film goes beyond the war reporting of casualties to learn how war affects the people it threatens and ravages.

Following the film, Rick McCutchan, from Hamilton, will lead a discussion on alternative peace making and peace building models, based on his experiences in Iraq during the Gulf War.

Just for Fun

Svend Robinson, Vocal Minority

Wednesday, February 1
9 p.m.

Just for Fun confronts the issue of "gay bashing." Violence against homosexuals is a growing problem across North America and the perpetrators are often disaffected young males. The film will challenge young people to confront the issue and to put a human face on the victims of these crimes.

Svend Robinson, MP and outspoken advocate for human rights will speak on the challenges that all Canadians must face to deal with this issue. Vocal Minority, a wonderful accapella choir will also sing out for gay and lesbian rights.

Partners for Justice

Father Miguel D'Escoto

Sponsored by Tools for Peace,
Canadian Catholic Organisation for
Development and Peace

Thursday, February 2
7 p.m.

Despite the end of a decade of war financed by the United States' government, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala are suffering from economic policies of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and United States' state department. Partners for Justice shows how local grassroots organisations are working to overcome the challenges that they face in light of these policies.

Father Miguel d'Escoto a Priest, journalist and social activist will speak following the film. (See back page for description)

Freedom had a Price

Peter Melnycky (Alberta Historic Sites and Archives) and Dr. Roman Petryshyn (Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre)

Thursday, February 2
9 p.m.

They had been lured from the Ukraine to homestead on the prairies and to build towns along the new transcontinental railway. A decade later, they had been declared enemy aliens and shipped off to distant work camps. This award-winning film exposes the conditions that 8,800 Ukrainians and other "enemy aliens" lived during the first world war in 24 camps across Canada.

All Festival Shows at the
GARNEAU THEATRE
(109 ST. & 87 AVE.)



National
Film Board
of Canada

feature attractions

OPENING EVENTS

Join the Parade!

Friday, January 27
12 noon - 1 p.m.

Starting at the International Centre

Be an instrument for change and create global harmony as we make our musical way across campus! Put on a costume, grab an instrument and join us in announcing International Week '95! The parade will leave from the International Centre at noon and wind through campus buildings on the way to SUB for opening remarks by **University of Alberta President, Roderick Fraser** at 12:30 p.m. Everyone's welcome!

Opening Night Gala

Friday, January 27
7 p.m.

Celebrate the 15th annual Global Visions Festival! This Gala will feature, among other presentations, the awarding of the first *Global Visions Festival Feature Artist Award* to singer/songwriter Bruce Cockburn. Bruce will talk and answer questions. This will be followed by a talk by Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu on the struggle for justice in Guatemala and around the world.

PERFORMING ARTS

Acting for Change

Thursday, February 2
Friday, February 3 - Saturday, February 4

Concrete Theatre presents Lina de Guevara of Puente Theatre, Victoria, who will be sharing her knowledge and skills in several sessions on Theatre of the oppressed, Image Theatre and Forum. The perspective of these forms is that our lives and emotions can be both a starting place for action and a means for self-expression.

Originally from Chile, Lina is an actor, director and teacher. Her work as Artistic Director of Puente Theatre is dedicated to exploring the rich spectrum of immigrant experience in Canada.

On the Thursday, Lina will offer a two hour introduction to the above topics, touching on both history and methodology. The session is open to all at the cost of \$5.

During the weekend workshop, Lina will expand on these forms focussing on exercises that participants can utilize as a tool in their own work. The cost of the two day workshop is \$100.

For more information or to register, phone Concrete Theatre at 439-3905.

LATIN DANCE

Tilo Paiz y su Banda Amistad and Sticks and Stones

Sponsored by the University of Alberta Department of Music and the Centre for International Alternatives

Saturday, February 4
8 p.m.
Dinwoodie Lounge, Students' Union Building

Since 1988, the Department of Music has played host to musicians from all over the world in its annual World Music Concert given in Convocation Hall. Each occasion offers a blend of lecture and music making. This year the guest artists will probably have the audience dancing in the aisles and since the Hall aisles are not wide enough, we're moving to the more informal surroundings of Dinwoodie Lounge. Tilo Paiz y su Banda Amistad play a variety of Latin rhythms from Latin America and the Caribbean, including Afro-Cuban sounds. In his lecture-demonstration, Tilo will describe the many influences on his music, from his time as a drummer of the rock group Santana, through the music of El Salvador where he was born, to his love of Latin jazz.

Following the workshop, the dancing will really heat up with the hot new band Sticks and Stones and then we'll end the evening with more great salsa from Tilo Paiz y su Banda Amistad!

↓ ----- cut here ----- ↓

C O U P O N

The Global Visions Festival supports the work of local social justice and community organisations. Show your support for the people of Spare Change by submitting this coupon when you buy your ticket. Your Spare Change Vendor will receive a dollar for every coupon submitted.

Vendor # _____

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

Father Miguel D'Escoto

Father D'Escoto, Director of FUNDECI - a community development organization based in Managua, Nicaragua - and former foreign minister of the Nicaraguan Sandinista government, will speak on the impact of World Bank and International Monetary Fund programs.

Thursday, February 2
7 p.m.
Garneau Theatre

Friday, February 3
12 noon - 1:30 p.m.
Faculty Lounge, St. Joseph's College

Chief Bernard Ominayak

Chief Ominayak of the Lubicon Cree Indian Nation will speak on the current crisis facing his people as they struggle for a land base in north-eastern Alberta.

Sunday, January 29
7 p.m.
Garneau Theatre

Monday, January 31
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
University of Alberta

Foreign Policy Review Forum

Representatives of the three major political parties will be on hand to discuss their views and answer questions on the review of Canada's foreign policy.

Saturday, February 4
2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Stollery Centre, Business Building
University of Alberta

FESTIVAL FUN

Opening Night Party

Friday, January 27
8 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.
City Media Club

Join us for an evening of great live music and dancing to support Friends of the Whaleback and Tools For Peace. Cost is \$5.

The Global Coffee House

Sponsored by "The Global Coffee House," (Fridays 5:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. CJSR 88.5 FM Radio)

Saturday, January 28 - Thursday, February 2
9 p.m. - 11 p.m.
Sugar Bowl Cafe (10922- 88 Ave.)

Every night after the Garneau event, catch the best of Edmonton's local global justice live music scene.

Writer's Corner

Saturday, January 28 - Thursday, February 2
7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Second Fiddle Books (10918 - 88 Avenue)

Come and listen to local Edmonton poets and writers read and discuss their works on topics from the personal to the global.

GLOBAL VISIONS FESTIVAL TICKETS

Get your advance Full Festival Pass for only \$20, before January 26th

At the Door:

Full Festival Pass \$30 or \$27 low income individual
Individual shows \$8 or \$7 low income

World Music Dance With Tilo Paiz y su Banda Amistad
\$8 in advance, \$12 door (\$10 students or low income)

Advance Full Festival and dance passes available at:

Kinnikinnick Foods, 9857 - 76 Ave. 433-4023
Global Village Crafts, 10432 Whyte Ave. 439-8349
Tools For Peace, 102, 11745 - Jasper Ave. 488-8387
Second Fiddle Books, 10918 - 88 Ave. 433-3868
Earth's General Store, 10843 - 82 Ave. 439-8725
University of Alberta - S.U. Info Booths

For more information or to reserve Festival Passes call the

Centre for International Alternatives 439-8744

Lying around in the UI hammock

BY KEITH WILEY

Sean's 50 years old, he's worked hard as an electrician all his life, and he's scared. He doesn't like a lot of the changes he's seeing happening at work, but even more than that he wonders what the working world holds for him.

"You get to the stage where you can't do the muscle work anymore . . . you're thrown on the scrap heap," Sean told *Spare Change*.

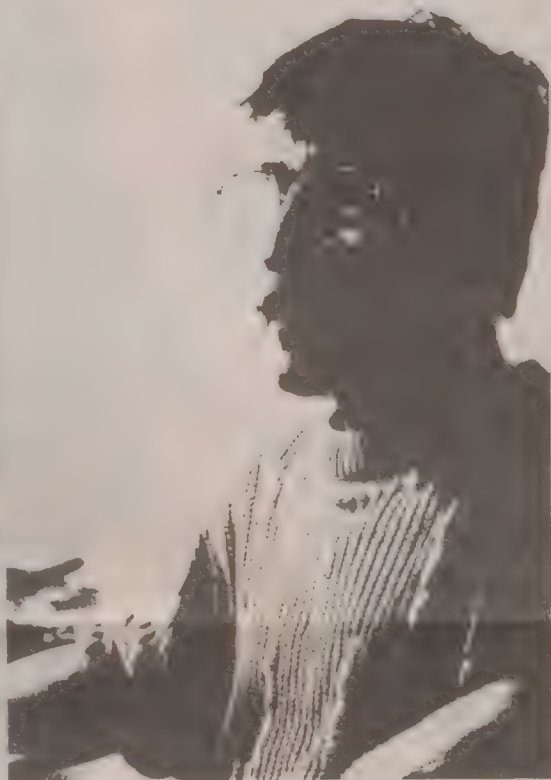
Sean's done his share of muscle work . . . he helped build Syncrude, Suncor, Scotford and many other big industrial projects. He's been an electrician for nearly 30 years.

The work's been damn hard, damn hard on his body. "Pulling that huge electrical cable, one and a half inches thick . . . try twisting that around for awhile . . . Over the years your joints, your wrists, your elbows . . . they go. It's flesh against steel and copper, what do you expect. My wrists have been going for five years . . . now they hurt . . . even with light work."

Sean knows how the hiring and firing goes. "Older workers, injured workers, they always go to the top of the layoff list." He's on UI now, but the claim only goes on so long. He's also applied for Workers' Compensation . . . but compensation is tighter and tighter too. He knows the heavy work has hurt his body, he knows that what's happened to him is recognizable as repetitive strain injury, he knows it's limiting his chances and ability to work . . . and he knows his chances of getting any compensation are pretty slim.

What Sean doesn't know is how he's going to make a living now.

"When you're on UI, you've always got that knot in your stomach, wondering when the next job is going to come up," he says. "If your last unemployment income is running out and there's no job, it's deadly." You get scared . . . it's terrifying . . . you worry about your kids. That's the biggest thing." Sean's been on Unemployment Insurance more times than he can count. In the construction industry that's par for the course. The "boom



and bust mentality" Sean calls it, and he knows what he's talking about.

Back in the 1980s Sean and his family owned a nice house. The bust hit in 1984, the work ran out and then the UI ran out. They lost the house, and not too long after that Sean and his wife split up. He lives alone now, but his daughters visit him often. The bust in the 1980s was pretty hard for Sean.

He's always worked union and made good money in heavy construction work, but he doesn't have a cottage and a boat, a muscle car or vacations in Hawaii. He laughs, "Far bloody from it." The work has been hit and miss, he hasn't saved a huge nest egg or

bought property or led a luxurious life.

When spokespeople in the national media accused Sean, and other construction workers like him, of loafing in the "Unemployment Insurance hammock" it made him mad. "Let them try one shift, in 30 below, in the crawl space under the fin fans, pulling the heavy cable to run the plant equipment," he says. "Let them work in a boom-and-bust economy."

Sean figures the Unemployment Insurance system worked well for the construction companies, keeping a pool of workers ready and waiting whenever they needed them for a big project. UI hasn't made him rich and it hasn't kept him or his family terribly secure.

The way Sean sees it when the jobs are gone, and the UI runs out, you have only two choices: "You can kill yourself, or move." There have been more than a few guys he's known who have taken the first option. Lots of others have had to move, sometimes transplanting their whole families, sometimes separating from their families for weeks and months at a time. Sean himself has worked in Thompson, Timmins, Hamilton, Toronto and all over Alberta.

So Sean doesn't think much of the criticism of UI and construction workers. "It's not very comfortable in that hammock," he says. "I'd rather be working. It's not your fault if you've been fucking laid off . . . again."

"Those people have no respect for what we do," he says, still angry. "Syncrude was built in four years, under just incredible conditions . . . cold weather, driving that shitty road." Working in camp jobs is tough. There is nothing but work . . . intense for 10-12 hours a day until the job is done.

An hour in a camp job is worth two hours in a better environment, he figures. "There's isolation . . . the deculturized lifestyle . . . you work, drink and smoke dope, that's all there is. And listenin' to crazy talk."

Sean's UI is running out; you get fewer weeks now than you used to. No jobs have been coming up lately and he knows he can't do the heavy electrical work anymore. Not every job will keep him. Again he's wondering what will happen. After a lifetime of working hard, Sean's scared. ♦

Not as cozy as all that



Reforming Canada's Social Programs

BY MARJORIE BENCZ

On October 5, federal Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy tabled a discussion paper on social security reform in Canada. Over the last few weeks, Canadians have been asked to review and respond to this discussion paper.

Last February's Budget Plan sent a strong message that cost reduction would form a major component of social program review, stating, "the objectives for social security reform are clear; the savings parameters are firm" (p.39).

This Budget Plan also reduced funding for Unemployment Insurance, post-secondary education, and the Canada Assistance Plan – all programs being considered by the Review – by billions of dollars.

Cabinet documents released since last February outline \$7.5 billion worth of further cuts to social programs that are to be made over the next three years – regardless of the outcome of the social security reform consultation process.

Spending reductions of this magnitude on the federal level will produce enormous reductions in the amounts available for provincial social services and programs. In Alberta, where the provincial government has already acted to severely reduce spending on social programs, the effects of additional reductions would be disastrous.

Learning:

When the discussion paper considers the area of Learning, it is referring almost exclusively to post-secondary education. This type of education, it seems to suggest, is the ingredient necessary to ensure that Canadians have the best access to jobs both now and into the future.

As the discussion paper notes, however, federal financial support for post-secondary education is scheduled to disappear altogether within ten years.

This will leave the financing of post-secondary education solely in provincial hands, and such a change is

expected to contribute to much higher tuition fees.

To offset the higher costs that students will be expected to bear, the discussion paper suggests providing additional support to the amounts that they can borrow through the Canada Student Loans program, allowing the use of RRSP's to help finance the costs of post-secondary education, and developing an "income contingency repayment plan."

Critics of these proposals argue that they will make a post-secondary education virtually inaccessible to low- and middle-income families, since the sizes of student loans accumulated by students over the course of such an education would represent an insurmountable disincentive to them and their families. These critics argue further that such a proposal could only further entrench the gap between the "haves" and the "have nots" in Canadian society, since only wealthy Canadians would have access to post-secondary education as a result of it.

Housing:

Concerns have also been expressed about several areas overlooked in the federal discussion paper which should be part of any comprehensive review of Canada's social programs. One of these areas is Housing.

Low-income Canadians, and in particular low-income renters, pay far higher proportions of their incomes towards shelter costs than do others. Because shelter costs are relatively fixed, these Canadians have less to spend on other basic necessities, such as food, clothing and medications, and this in turn contributes to insecurities in these other areas.

Low-income Canadians face an inadequate supply of affordable units to begin with, as well as unscrupulous practices by some landlords. To add insult to injury, however, they are sometimes told that they're "too poor" to qualify even for public housing.

PART II



A third problem area here has to do with the poor quality of the housing units that low-income Canadians are able to access, and the risks to personal health, safety, security and well-being that they often experience as a direct result. These risks are both objective (in the case of poor health and fire safety standards, for example) and subjective (in the case of personal feelings of endangerment and violation).

The federal government has taken on the difficult task of reviewing our social programs. A more difficult task will be ensuring that our social programs provide comprehensive solutions to the complex issues facing Canadians. ♦

What some Albertans told the MPs

The House of Commons Standing Committee on social program reform listened to a number of Albertans recently. What they heard included the following excerpts from a presentation by Edmonton's Income Security Action Committee:

"... Changes in the global economy, in technology and in employment practices have altered the labour market.

"... Declining labour market conditions and cutbacks in government spending are resulting in higher levels of poverty. In addition, the gap between the "haves" and the "have nots" is growing. Rising unemployment and growth in lower paying and part-time jobs push more middle income families into the low income category.

"... It is essential that our social programs are adequately funded given the trends happening in Canada... Reforming social programs means making them better, but it does not necessarily mean making them less expensive... further cuts could lead to increased spending in other programs.

"... It is not good public policy simply to shunt people off the welfare or UI rolls into the ranks of the working poor. The goal should be getting people who are able to work into steady, full-time jobs that pay substantially more than the minimum wage. Changes to our social programs can facilitate the shift from dependence to work, but only if there are enough jobs available in the first place. That means governments not only face the challenge of reforming our social programs. They will also have to find ways to foster a better climate for creating jobs."

The Income Security Action Committee is a coalition of agencies and organizations that provide services to low income families and communities in the greater Edmonton area. Some of the ISAC members are: Alberta Association of Social Workers, Boyle Street Co-op, Bissell Centre, Norwood Community Centre, Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation and Edmonton's Food Bank. ♦

It's worth remembering...

THE GIBSON BLOCK, the city's only flatiron building, echoes with colourful tales of Edmonton past. And some of these stories are being collected into a souvenir booklet available this fall. The fully restored building will re-open as the new home of the Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre by Christmas. For details on the "house warming celebration" and the souvenir booklet, contact the Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation at **424-7543**.



Community Services Referral Line 482-INFO

Linking people who need help to those who can

THE SUPPORT NETWORK



The staff & vendors of SPARE CHANGE would like to thank CITIPAGE for supplying their products to us at cost

CITIPAGE

Ask about our Baby-Bleepers

Calgary
235-2020

Edmonton
423-2020

STREET • Guide

CALGARY

ADVOCATES

- **Calgary John Howard Society** 266-4566
- **Calgary Legal Guidance** 234-9266
- **Elizabeth Fry Society** 294-0737

AIDS

- **Aids Calgary** 288-0155
- **Sexually Transmitted Disease Services (STD clinic)** 297-6562

DISTRESS LINE

- **Canadian Mental Health Suicide Services** 297-1744
- **Community Resource Team** 299-9699
- **Distress Centre/Drug Centre** 266-1605
- **Kids Help Phone** 1-800-668-6868
- **Parents Anonymous** 265-1117
- **Telecare Calgary** 266-0700

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- **Child Abuse Hot Line**
call the Operator ("0"), ask for Zenith 1234
- **Emergency Social Assistance**
(also for runaways) 270-5335

FAMILY SERVICES

- **Calgary Urban Projects Society**
Family Resource Centre 221-8799

FOOD

- **Interfaith Food Bank**
7475 Flint Road, SE 253-2055
- **Salvation Army Food Bank** 269-5951
Daily meals are served at a variety of locations.
Call for information 221-8780

HOUSING

- **Connection Housing Society of Calgary** 128 - 7th Ave. SE 232-6777

MEDICAL CARE

- **Calgary Urban Projects Society Health Centre** 221-8780

SHELTER (Short Term)

- **Alpha House (alcohol)** 234-7388
- **Drop-in Centre** 266-3600
- **Native Women's Shelter** 531-1972
- **Salvation Army Booth Centre** 262-6188
- **Women's Emergency Shelter** 232-8717
- **Servants Anonymous** 237-8477

YOUTH SERVICES

- **Alberta Safe House Society** 244-4737
- **Avenue 15** 244-4847
- **EXIT Community Outreach** 262-9953

EDMONTON

ADVOCATES

- **Bissell Centre**
10527 - 96 Street 423-2285
- **Boyle Street Co-op**
9720 - 102 Avenue 424-4106

DISTRESS LINE

- **482-HELP** 482-4357

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- **Emergency Social Services** 427-3390
- **Sexual Assault Centre**
24-hour crisis line 423-4121
- **Women's Emergency Accommodation** 423-5302
- **Win House** 479-0058
- **Lurana Centre** 424-5075
- **Herb Jamieson Centre**
10014 - 105A Avenue 429-3470
- **A Safe Place** 464-7233
- **Emergency Relief Services** 428-4422

FOOD

- **Main Food Bank** 425-4190

DETOX CENTRES

- **AADAC Recovery Centre** 24 hrs.
10302 - 107 Street 427-4291

George Spady Centre

- 10015 - 105A Avenue 424-8335

HEALTH SERVICES

- **Boyle-McCauley Health Centre**
10628 - 96 Street 422-7333
- **AIDS Network**
#201 - 11456 Jasper Avenue 488-5816
- **Sexually Transmitted Disease Services**
10105 - 109 Street 427-2834

LEGAL SERVICES

- **Student Legal Services** 492-2226
- **Legal Aid**
#300 - 10320 - 102 Ave. 427-7575

SENIORS

- **Operation Friendship**
9526 - 106 Avenue 429-2626

YOUTH SERVICES

- **Crossroads** 474-7421
- **Boyle Street Co-op Youth Outreach** 424-4106
- **Youth Emergency Shelter**
9310 - 82 Avenue 468-7070
- **Inner City Housing Project** 424-7866
or 479-1609

SASKATOON

ADVOCATES

- **Hands-on Street Ministries**
(Drop In Center)
117A - 20th Street West 653-4182
- **Saskatoon John Howard Society**
171 - 2nd Ave. South 244-8347
- **Alcoholics Anonymous**
24 hour information 665-6727
- **Elizabeth Fry Society**
307 - 135 21st Street East 934-4606
- **Family Support Centre**
315 Avenue M. South 933-7751

DETOX CENTRES

- **Larson House**
130 Avenue O South 244-1385
- **Calder Centre** 933-5867
Outpatients Clinic 933-5867

EMERGENCY

- **Saskatoon Crisis Intervention**
1410 - 20 Street West 933-6200
- **Child Abuse & Neglect** 933-6200

FOOD

- **Saskatoon Food Bank**
202 Avenue C South 664-6565
- **Friendship Inn**
619 - 20 Street West 242-5122

Salvation Army

- 339 Avenue C South 244-6280

HEALTH SERVICES

- **Mental Health Clinic**
165 - 3rd Avenue South 933-6500
- **AIDS - Saskatoon**
414 - 220 3rd Avenue South 242-5005
- **Society for Depression**
304 - 220 3rd Avenue South 242-1833
- **STD Clinic**
(Sexually Transmitted Disease)
310 Idylwyld Drive 655-4642

SHELTER

- **Salvation Army**
339 Avenue C South 244-6280
- **Interval House**
712 Victoria Avenue 244-0185
- **Y.W.C.A.**
510 - 25 Street East 244-0944
- **Saskatoon Rainbow Centre** 683-1925
- **New Start Homes**
127 Avenue D. North 664-8848

YOUTH

- **Saskatoon Downtown Youth Centre**
301 - 1st Avenue N. 931-6644

"A junior movie"

BY DEANNA DOUGLAS

Last month we saw Tim Allen put on the pounds to take aim at Santa, and now we're treated to a pregnant Arnold Schwarzenegger - that's quite a stretch. It does make you wonder what goes on in Hollywood board rooms.

Well, maybe they have more brains than we give them credit for. A lot of people I talked to considered going to "Junior" just to see Arnold in a maternity shirt.

Even if you are not a fan of Hollywood's sense of humour and its action stars, it shouldn't take long to appreciate the comic potential of putting America's biggest, macho man in the most feminine situation possible. This is one script that should pretty well write itself, which to a large extent it seems to do. "Junior" is a comedy, and it certainly doesn't aspire to be anything else.

And it is funny. Schwarzenegger, Danny DeVito, and Emma Thompson each pulled off a strong performance. The plot is not brilliantly original, nor are the characters or the script - but they weren't meant to be. "Junior" took a story of a clutzy, endearing guy with a pregnant girlfriend - and simply reversed the roles. Literally. We are treated to all of the clichés about pregnancy, and I do mean all, as well as a number of male/female stereotypes that we are used to seeing in Hollywood films, all turned 180 degrees.

While "Junior" may give you some food for thought about pregnancy and parenting it skirted almost all the personal and social implications of being pregnant. It didn't look at: gender roles, medical and scientific ethics, the politics and financial success of pharmaceutical companies, homophobia or even the personal or physical aspects of infertility. Disappointing. I would like to see more in-depth analysis of current concerns in a Hollywood movie.

But this movie is not the appropriate place to look at anything

serious at all. Most of us would find the only way we can suspend our disbelief long enough to accept a pregnant Schwarzenegger is a very comic situation. The makers of "Junior" knew that, if nothing else, and they kept the tone light throughout. The film drags in parts, but it never takes itself too seriously

MOVIE • Review



and was generally engaging.

Would expectant parents-to-be enjoy this movie? They might, if they're looking for a few laughs, and a relaxing night out. "Junior" isn't right for everyone, though. If you are looking for some real food for thought, or are struggling with pregnancy-related issues, you may want to try something else from your local movie listings.

I'll be back next month with a new review. Feel free to let me know c/o Spare Change if you have any comments or movie selection suggestions. Until next time! ♦

FACTORY DIRECT HOTTUBS



Check out
FACTORY DIRECT'S SPAS
before you get into hot water.

FACTORY DIRECT HOTTUBS IS
PROUD TO ADVERTISE IN THIS ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRITED
NEWSPAPER. GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE VENDORS.

1502 MERIDIAN RD. NE

(corner of Barlow Tr. & 16 Ave. NE)

STORE HOURS:

Mon-Fri 10:00 am - 8:00 pm

Sat 10:00 am - 5:00 pm • Sun 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Tel: 273-4928 • Fax: 273-4746

► **Relax** & enjoy the comfort of using your own Spa.

► **For** socializing and or therapy, there is nothing like having your own Spa.

- Calgary's only Spa Manufacturer
- Guaranteed fair pricing policy
- No commission sales staff • Free Spa water testing

► **We** invite all our customers to tour our state-of-the-art Factory and then try out our finished Spas.

Please don't forget to bring your bathing suits.

The Distress Line

24 - hours - a - day

482-HELP

We'll listen ...
We'll help



THE
SUPPORT
NETWORK

SIGNS • for the Times

BY ELYSE FREEMANSON

Aquarius



JANUARY 21
FEBRUARY 19

The brightest part of your forecast this month concerns the area of love, romance, relationships; your whole social scenario shines. For some of you, a special friendship could start to look a lot more intriguing. In the area of money, save it! Things will slowly improve over the months, but the present time is basically still a time for hoarding it away for a rainy day. Your general health picture is looking not too bad. Just continue as usual (hopefully you have) your diet and exercise and rest routines.

Leo



JULY 24
AUGUST 23

Leos, yours is another sign that might very well be walking down the aisles of love in the next little while. If not that, there are still plenty of romantic opportunities out there for the rest of you. Financially, things look pretty upbeat; just be frugal as you can and work hard at your job. Rewards will be forthcoming. In the area of health, just keep plugging away at your exercise and diet regime. For many of you, this would be a great time for a total personal makeover to fully enjoy the year ahead.

Pisces



FEBRUARY 20
MARCH 20

There should be plenty of opportunities for making all kinds of new contacts this month, socially and in a career oriented way as well. Be patient and thrifty in your financial dealings and everything should be looking a lot brighter for many of you. There is some possibility of communications from a distance or travel plans of some sort also. Healthwise, you may find your schedule pretty demanding at times, so make sure you, along with almost all the other signs, take extra good care of yourself. Lots of rest whenever you can, healthy food, exercise, and of course, seeing your physician promptly should some ailment arise.

Virgo



AUGUST 24
SEPTEMBER 23

You should have a fair bit of personal magnetism and increased energy for this month. That goes for both your social and romantic plans, and also your financial and career aims. For some of you, however, there could possibly be some obstacles or delays in these areas instead. Sort of a mixed bag, but everything will sort itself out in the end. Healthwise, common sense is the key: eat well, exercise, don't worry and fret too much. You'll do fine.

Aries



MARCH 21
APRIL 20

Many of you might be wondering what course to take in handling a long-term relationship. You could be feeling confinement, loss of freedom and a strong sense of just escaping it all. You must take some time then to make decisions in this area. Everything will seem much clearer to you soon. You may also be feeling extra pressures on the job front. Just work hard and eventually there will be more financial benefits coming your way. Continue to follow a healthful lifestyle in order to handle all those extra stresses.

Libra



SEPTEMBER 24
OCTOBER 23

There is a strong focus on domestic, property and family affairs this month for most of you. Try to be as responsible as you can and avoid as much as possible any personal clashes in these areas. Also, practice being as conservative as possible as you consider future plans regarding property fix-ups, etc. As to your health, it is still extremely important to practice a very disciplined diet, exercise and rest regime. Make sure to have that check-up, especially for even a tiny ailment. Take care.

Taurus



APRIL 21
MAY 21

Travel seems an important part of your agenda this month, whether it's a real trip or just a little armchair travelling. It could possibly be related to potential dynamic future business dealings also. Romantically, you could be also trying to decide what to do about certain special relationships right now. For the rest of you, it could be an exciting time socially. Financially, there are many opportunities for expansion, especially in partnership. Again, a reminder to keep at it in the diet and exercise area.

Scorpio



OCTOBER 24
NOVEMBER 22

Starting this month and continuing for several years, your financial picture looks extremely interesting. There will be many different kinds of opportunities presenting themselves to you. Romantically, many of you are or have been involved in a close personal relationship; a lot of you will be trying to make some decisions about what to do here. Well, it's sort of a mixed bag. Scorpios - it's your call. Continue to practice caution with your health: proper food, rest and watching for over-indulgence.

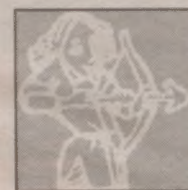
Gemini



MAY 22
JUNE 21

Your relationships of all kinds are looking potentially very exciting and rewarding. There's lots of opportunities, socially and financially (as in partnerships) for you right now. Your financial rewards won't be apparent for while yet, but practice some patience and optimism and they will come. Healthwise, it is very important, Gemini's, to continue an ongoing health, diet and exercise regime. Make sure you get a complete medical check-up and follow your doctor's advice about any ailment, small or large.

Sagittarius



NOVEMBER 23
DECEMBER 21

Financially, this month just might be presenting many of you with some surprises! A lot of you will finally be getting what has been long overdue. Your love life as well should be positively wonderful; lots of interesting opportunities and developments. For some of you born in the early part of your sign, things might not look all that rosy all the time. Don't fret; practice your natural positivism. Some of the slightly negative vibes have to do with your health, so it's of the utmost importance to take very good care of yourself. Get that check-up!

Cancer



JUNE 22
JULY 23

This is a very positive time for a lot of you in the romance, marriage and partnership areas. A lot of you will be making decisions concerning long-term relationships, for instance, marriage. Others will be making plans concerning possible financial partnerships. But make sure to read the fine print when it comes to actually signing any contracts this month. Healthwise, continue watching your calories and practicing an active exercise program.

Capricorn



DECEMBER 22
JANUARY 20

A lot of you Capricorns are still, or are about to, become more involved with some sort of joint investments. Of course, make sure they are of a sound and practical nature. Your social life could include travel of some sort, and definite opportunities for fun and romance for most of you. However, for a few of you, there also seems to be some sort of confusion going on as far as relationships are concerned. You'll figure it out! Your health picture looks basically good; just keep up your special diet and exercise plan.

Help Make A Job

SUPPORT OUR NEWSPAPER

Spare Change is in the business of publishing a newspaper and making jobs for the people who sell the papers on the street. Hundreds of people have helped feed their families by selling the newspaper. It's important work for many prairie households.

You can help. The costs of producing the paper aren't covered by sales alone.

Your small contribution can help one family work for a bit more income. Some examples are:

\$3 Buys a vendor tag

\$10 Starts off a new vendor

\$25 Publishes a colour photo

\$50 Designs and prepares one whole page

\$75 Covers one day of distribution, getting vendors out working

To help create more jobs for more people make a contribution to Spare Change and we'll send you a charitable tax receipt. It is a very good cause. You'll be helping, not to get someone off the street but to keep them out on the street - with a job.

Send your contribution to Make A Job to:

Spare Change
10527-96 Street
Edmonton, Alberta • T5H 2H6

10
SPARE
CHANGE
JANUARY
1995

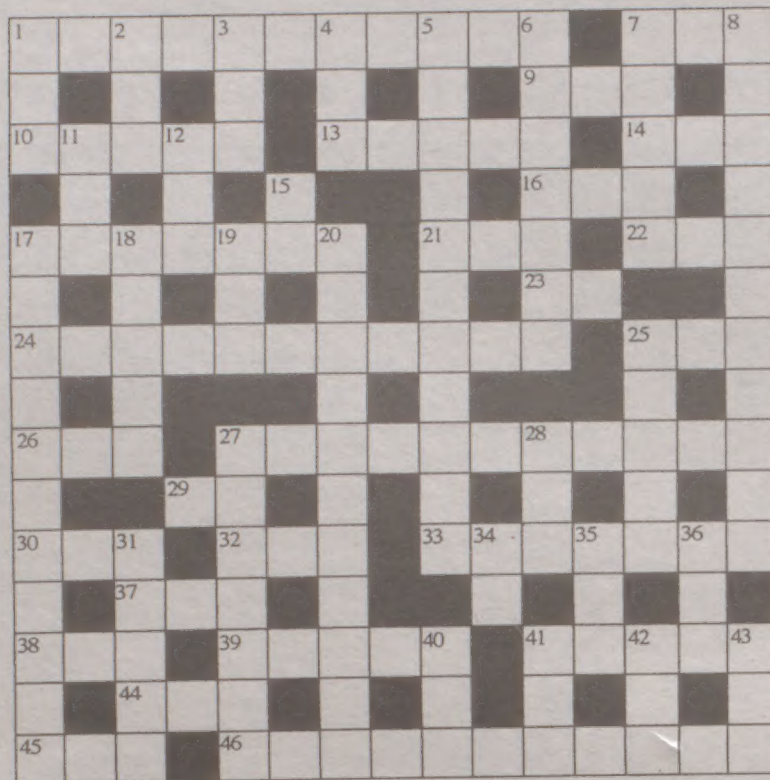
CROSSWORD • Puzzle 12

ACROSS

- 1 Beardless (5,6)
- 7 Tummy muscles (3)
- 9 Farming profession, abb. (3)
- 10 Duck (5)
- 13 Worth (5)
- 14 The Blarney Stone's gift (3)
- 16 As well (3)
- 17 Trick (7)
- 21 _____ Guevara (3)
- 22 Former Beatle Sutcliffe (3)
- 23 Blood factor (2)
- 24 Duties (11)
- 25 Hail fellow, well thee _____ (3)
- 26 Slang: female sibling (3)
- 27 Illustrious artist? (11)
- 29 Dr. Seuss's Sam I _____ (3)
- 30 Young woman who comes out (3)
- 32 Not good (3)
- 33 Slang: Boring theatrical productions (7)
- 37 Boxer Muhammad (3)
- 38 Big tub (3)
- 39 Woeful songs (5)
- 41 'White man' according to Hollywood? (5)
- 44 Golfer's peg (3)
- 45 Photographer Man (3)
- 46 Act of sacrilege (11)

► Due a computer glitch, one of December's Puzzle 11 clues did not print. If you haven't checked the answers yet, Across #44 was "To jump at the chance" (13).

BY SUSAN ANDREWS



Answers to December Crossword #11

VALEDICTORIAN H
L R B H N E M U
PALE OPERATIC M
E O P R E E K I P
NOUVEAU ANNO B
N D A A D S O K A
Y NERVE Y E A R C
P I E A V A C K
I S E T T S P L I T W
N I S R U S U O H
C S O U L M A L A R I A
H A N L I O L I L
E E L L I P T I C G O R E
R N R O O A O
S O P P O R T U N I S T I C

► Puzzle 12 answers will be published in the February issue of Spare Change.

DOWN

- 1 Not a gentleman (3)
- 2 Finis (3)
- 3 Scottish denial (3)
- 4 Cured pig haunch (3)
- 5 Ravenously (11)
- 6 Chats (7)
- 7 Toronto team (5)
- 8 Lifestyles within a society (11)
- 11 Charm (3)
- 12 Decorative stone (3)
- 15 Alternating current (2)
- 17 Made to look better than it is (4)
- 18 Kilometre's predecessors (5)
- 19 Suffix (3)
- 20 Timpani (6,5)
- 25 Bishop's headgear (5)
- 27 Drank (7)
- 28 Uncooked (3)
- 31 A bit crazy (5)
- 34 Kids's protest (3)
- 35 This minute (3)
- 36 Ronald, in half (3)
- 40 Used as written (3)
- 41 Can be feathery or scaly (3)
- 42 French friend (3)
- 43 Scottish own (3)

OVERKILL



OVERKILL

39A YOUNG



SOUPLINE BOB



Barb's



The Gibson Block

Flatiron building in Edmonton launched as new Women's Emergency Centre

The glassed in corner "nose" of the building shows off the unique shape of the Gibson Block. It is called a "flatiron building" because its distinctive triangular shape looks like the old flatirons, heated on the stove, that were used to press clothes around the time the Block was built.



Marggo Pariseau and her staff offer hospitality to homeless women. They listen to them, they feed them, and they put them to bed. They cry with them and they forgive them. They refuse to exclude them. The women are victims of sexual or physical abuse. Some have long-lasting mental health problems, others have no family or friends, many of them have turned to alcohol or drugs. Over 40 women were the first nightly occupants of the Centre following the opening. Not regular residents, the women paid for the privilege of being the first guests. They were treated to a special breakfast, prepared by men, the next morning. The contributions of these first guests helped pay for the new bedding at the Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre (WEAC).

Edmonton Mayor Jan Reimer presides over success turning old building to new and useful life.



PHOTOGRAPH

▲ The historic building that overlooks the river valley from Jasper Avenue is the new home for the 50-bed WEAC. The Centre provides short-term housing for any needy woman away from home or in crisis. "A safe haven and a smile" are the watchwords of the Centre. Women in need can ring the buzzer at the Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre any time, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year – and a woman opens the door.

▲ Edmonton Mayor Jan Reimer helped out at the launch of Edmonton's Gibson Block, home of the Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre. It was in large part Reimer's personal effort that saved the 1913 "flatiron building" from destruction. The City of Edmonton bought the building as it was on the point of crumbling. Under a special arrangement geared to preservation of the site, the city sold the building to the Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation for renovation and renewal as the Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre. Reimer also headed up the Gibson Block Action Committee, a group of volunteers that raised funds and promoted the restoration of the building.

Who are you?

You bought the newspaper and we hope you find it interesting and enjoyable. But just who are you? We'd like to know and we'd like to know what you think about **Spare Change**. Take just a few minutes to fill our questionnaire and send it in. By telling us who you are, and what you like, you'll help us get better.

1 What is your favourite part of the newspaper?

Are you ...

2 ☐ male
☐ female

3 ☐ 0-25 years
☐ 25-50 years
☐ 50+ years

4 ☐ a grade 12 graduate
☐ a college graduate
☐ a university graduate
☐ other

5 ☐ living cheque to cheque
☐ enough income to save a bit
☐ income is not a concern

You would rather...

6 ☐ go shopping for clothes
☐ go work out
☐ stay home and watch a movie

7 ☐ get involved in a church group
☐ go fishing
☐ volunteer for your local community

8 ☐ consider the environmental impact of products
☐ buy products on sale

9 ☐ do something to help the less fortunate
☐ let government help them

10 ☐ read a newspaper or magazine
☐ read a book
☐ watch news on TV

Just clip this out, tuck in in an envelope and send it in to:

Spare Change Newspaper
10527-96 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5H 2H6

Or you can fax a copy to 429-7908. Your information helps our editorial staff and advertisers to know who you are and what you like.

Thank you.

Spare Change

Helping People Help Themselves

Get your copy of Spare Change through the mail!

Just \$30 a year will get you all 12 issues of the newspaper. **YES, I want to subscribe.** I am enclosing \$30 (cheque or money order) for my 12 issues.

Mail to: **Spare Change**
10527-96 Street
Edmonton, AB
T5H 2H6

(FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY)

VENDOR

Spare Change is a street newspaper, sold on the street for the benefit of the street vendors. But, if you can't easily get it from a vendor, we are offering subscriptions by mail as well. Vendors will still benefit from subscriptions.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
Postal Code _____